

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4035

INFO NATNAVMEDCEN

NAMRU-2 TAIPEI

COMUSTDC TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, TW

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF NAMRU-2 TAIPEI

NATNAVMEDCEN FOR NAVMEDRSCHDEVCOM

1. A U.S. NAVY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT (NAMRU-2) WAS ESTABLISHED IN TAIPEI IN 1955, THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND MOFA. THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING NAMRU-2 EXPIRES OCTOBER 14, 1975, AND THUS A DECISION MUST BE MADE REGARDING CONTINUATION OF THIS ACTIVITY IN TAIPEI. WE ARE INFORMED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF NAMRU-2 THAT THE US NAVY WISHES TO CONTINUE NAMRU-2 IN OPERATION. WE ASSUME THAT THE GROC WILL ALSO WISH IT TO CONTINUE, FOR BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND POLITICAL REASONS.

2. NAMRU-2 IS ONE OF THREE MEDICAL RESEARCH UNITS WHICH THE US NAVY OPERATES OVERSEAS (THE OTHERS ARE IN CAIRO AND ADDIS ABABA). IT ENGAGES IN MEDICAL RESEARCH ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNIQUE TO THIS AREA, AND SUPERVISES THE ACTIVITIES OF A SUBSIDIARY UNIT LOCATED IN JAKARTA. THE NAMRU-2 STAFF CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL: 30 US
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MILITARY (PRIMARILY NAVY), FOUR DOD CIVILIANS, ONE

CIVILIAN CONTRACT EMPLOYEE, AND 195 LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYEES. THE US PERSONNEL COME UNDER THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT (SOFA). CHINESE MEDICAL PERSONNEL FROM NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF NAMRU-2.

3. THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING NAMRU-2 PROVIDE THAT, "UNLESS EXTENDED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT OR UNLESS THE NAMRU-2 RESEARCH PROJECT IS ABANDONED BY THE UNITED STATES OR DISCONTINUED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT, THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS FROM (OCT 14, 1955)." THE PREMISES OCCUPIED BY NAMRU-2 WERE PROVIDED BY NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY AT THE RATE OF ONE DOLLAR FOR THE TWENTY-YEAR PERIOD. THE UNIVERSITY MAY WISH TO CHARGE NAMRU-2 FULL RENTAL FOR THE PREMISES IN THE EVENT OF EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT, BUT IT IS ALSO QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE GROC WILL, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, BE WILLING FOR NAMRU-2 TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE NOMINAL RENTAL CHARGE.

4. AS IT IS INVOLVED EXCLUSIVELY IN MEDICAL RESEARCH, NAMRU-2 IS A LOW-PROFILE ACTIVITY WITH LITTLE POTENTIAL FOR PROVOCATION OR CONTROVERSY, EVEN THOUGH IT IS STAFFED LARGELY BY US MILITARY PERSONNEL. IF THE US NAVY DEEMS ITS CONTINUATION TO BE IN NAVY INTERESTS, THE EMBASSY CONCURS. WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO FAVOR EXTENSION ON AN INDEFINITE BASIS, WITH AN ANNUAL LEASE AUTOMATICALLY RENEWABLE UNLESS THE ROC GIVES ONE YEAR NOTICE. ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT, WHICH WOULD PRESERVE FOR THE NAVY THE OPTION OF TERMINATING THE ACTIVITY AT ANY TIME (SEE LANGUAGE PARA 3 ABOVE).

5. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MOFA CONCERNING EXTENSION OF NAMRU-2.

6. COPIES OF ORIGINAL AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENTS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEING POUCHED TO EA/ROC.

7. TDC CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE. UNGER

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